



Merced to Fresno Section High-Speed Train Project

Preliminary Alternatives Analysis

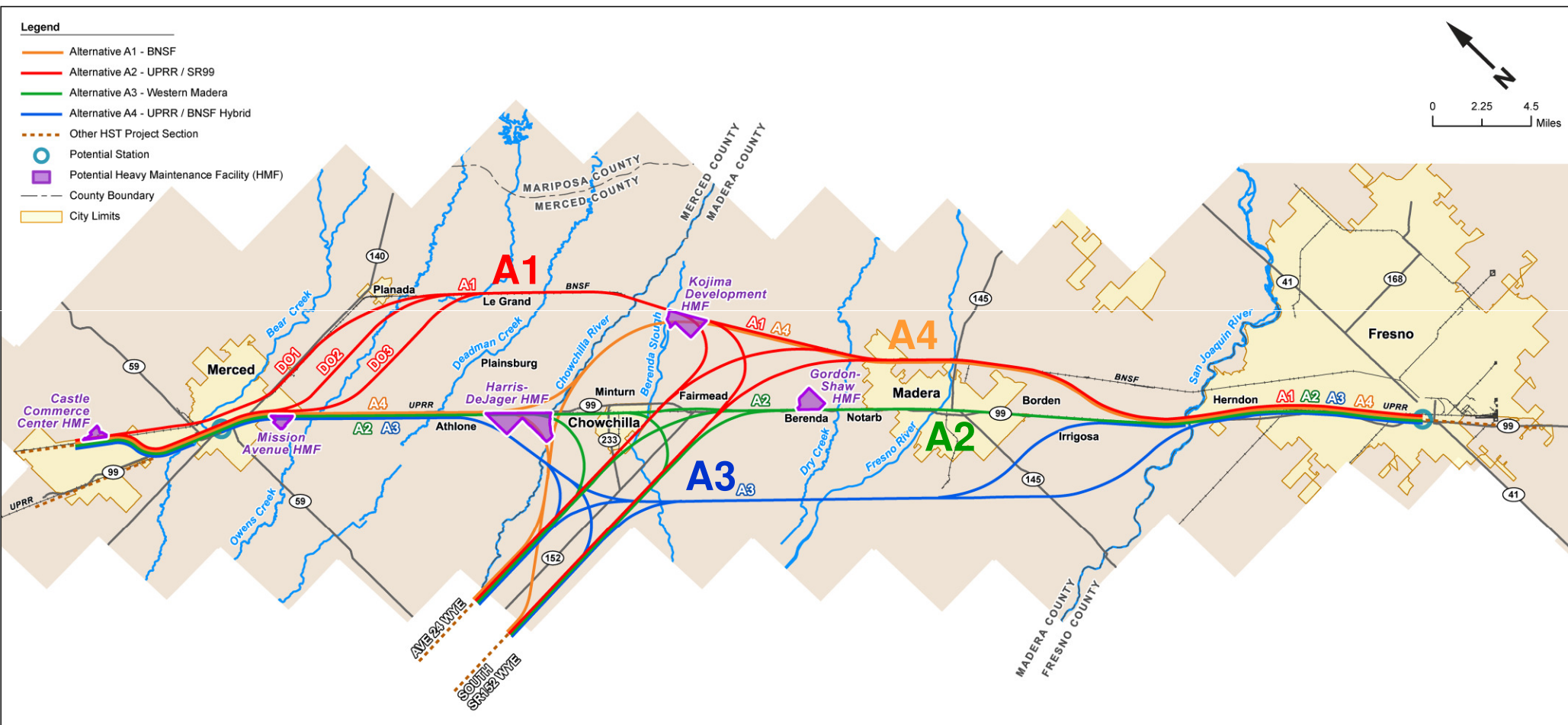
**Federal Railroad Administration
California High-Speed Rail Authority**

**Authority Board Meeting
April 2010**



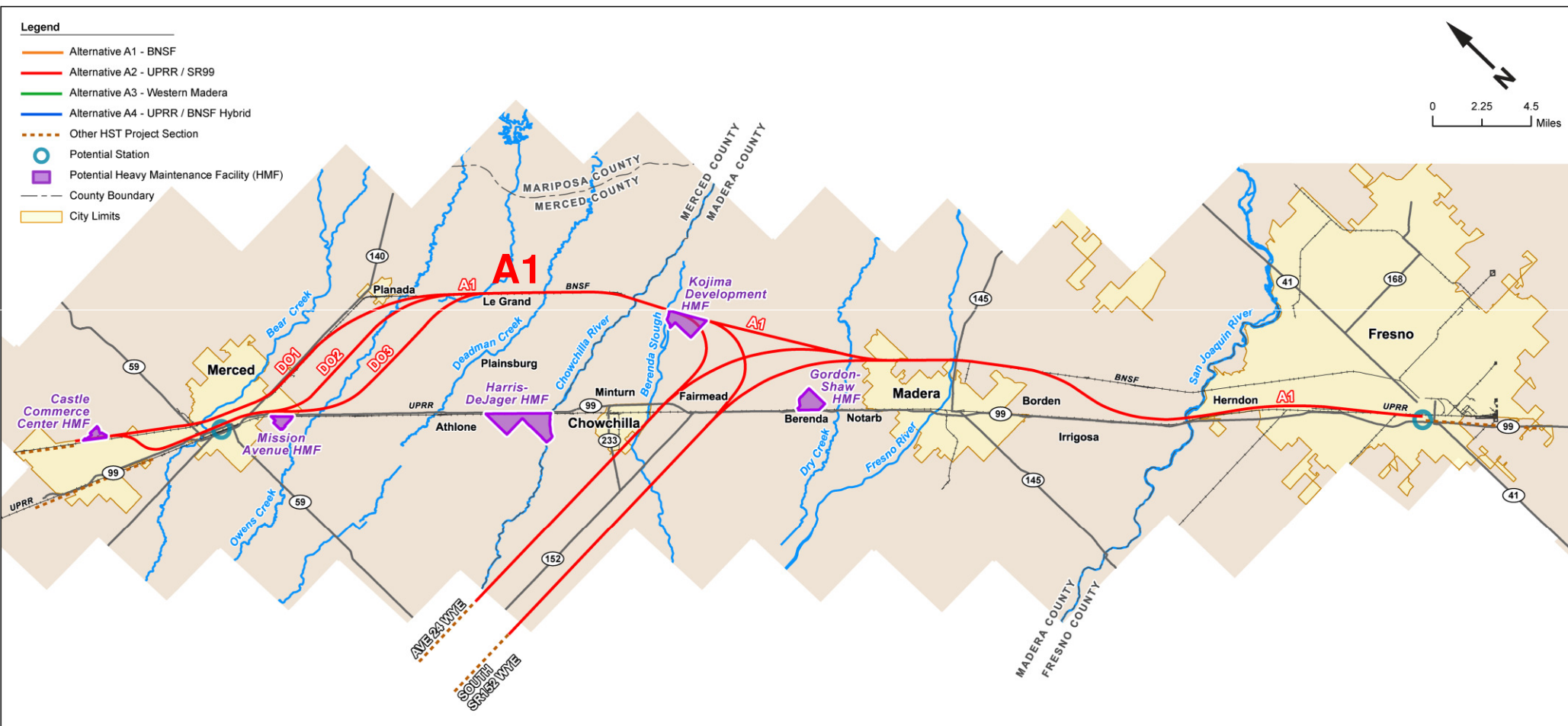


Range of Alternatives Considered



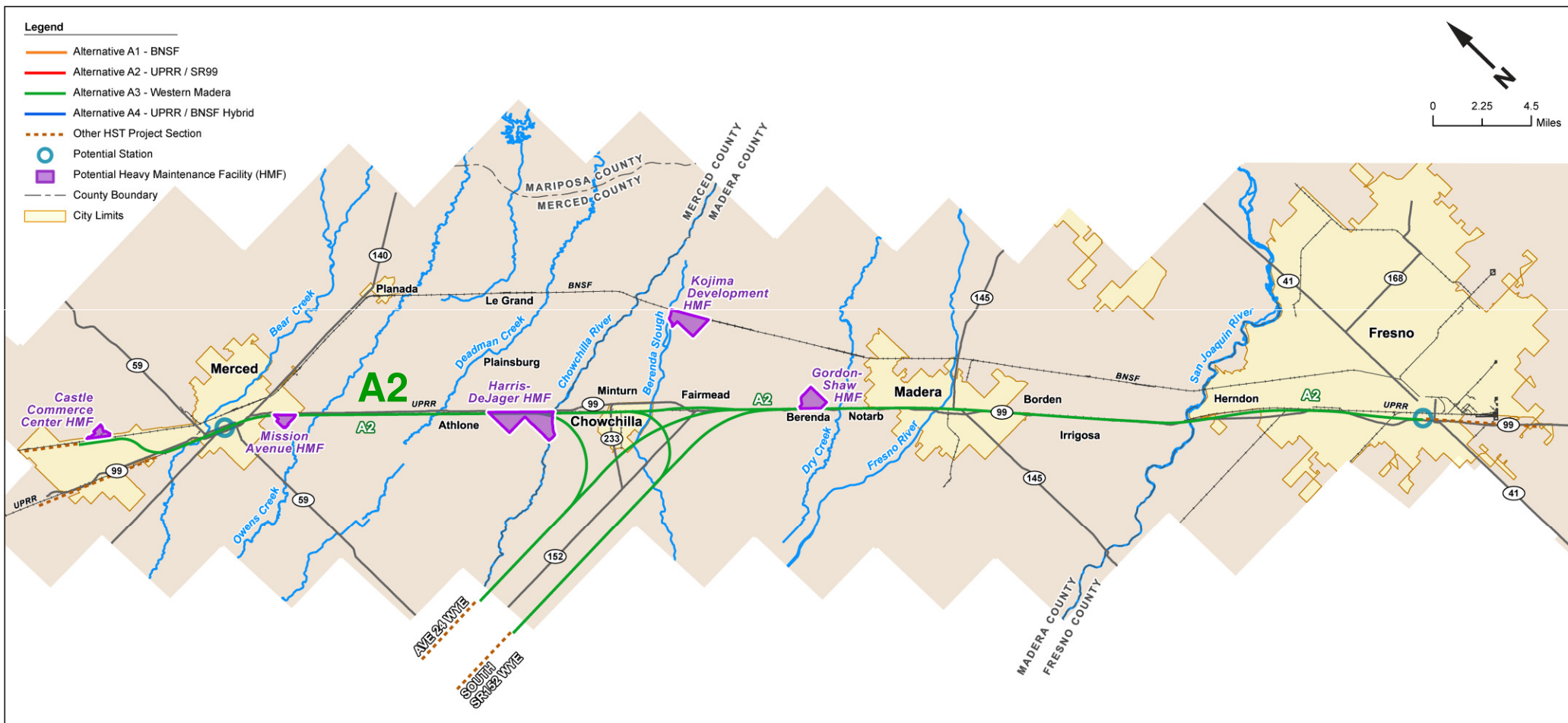


Alternative A1- BNSF



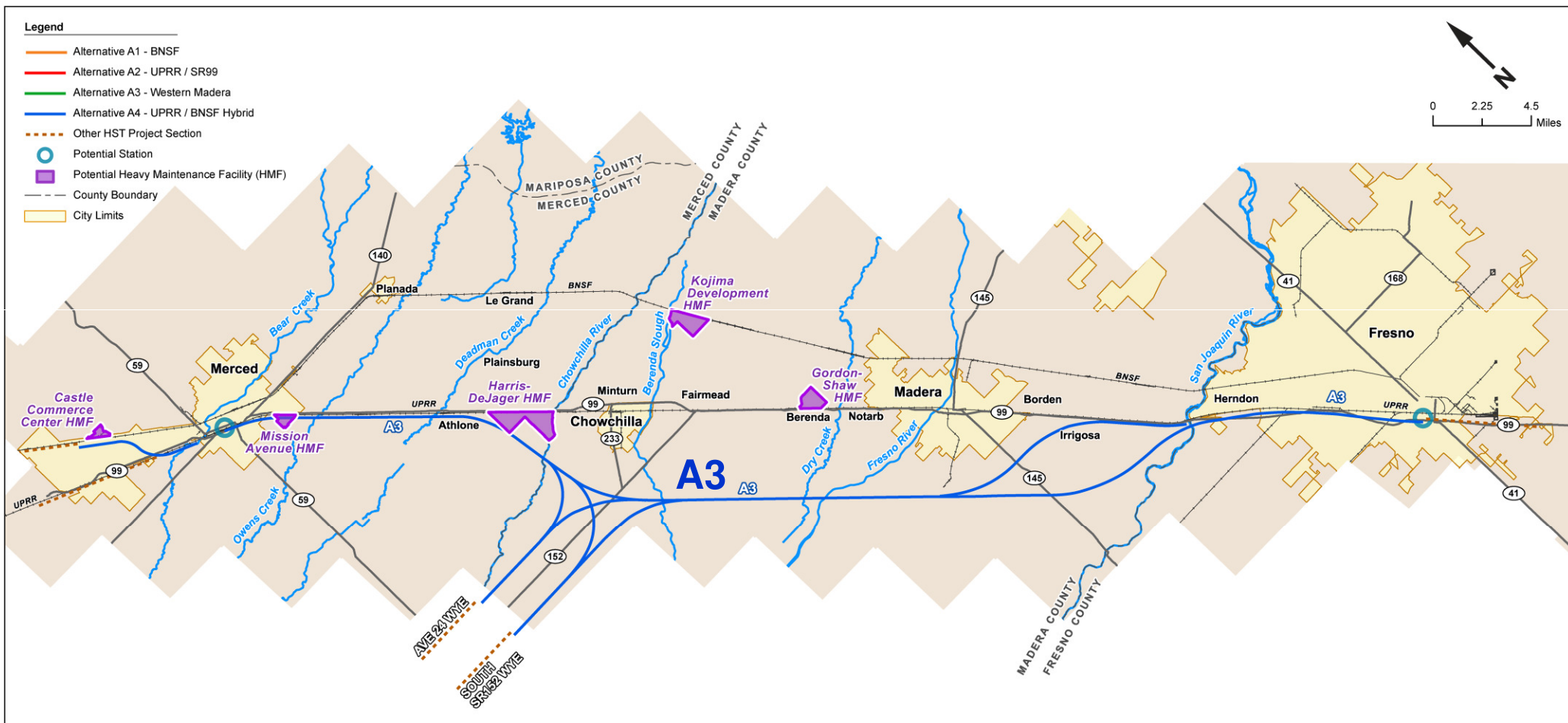


Alternative A2 – UPRR/SR99



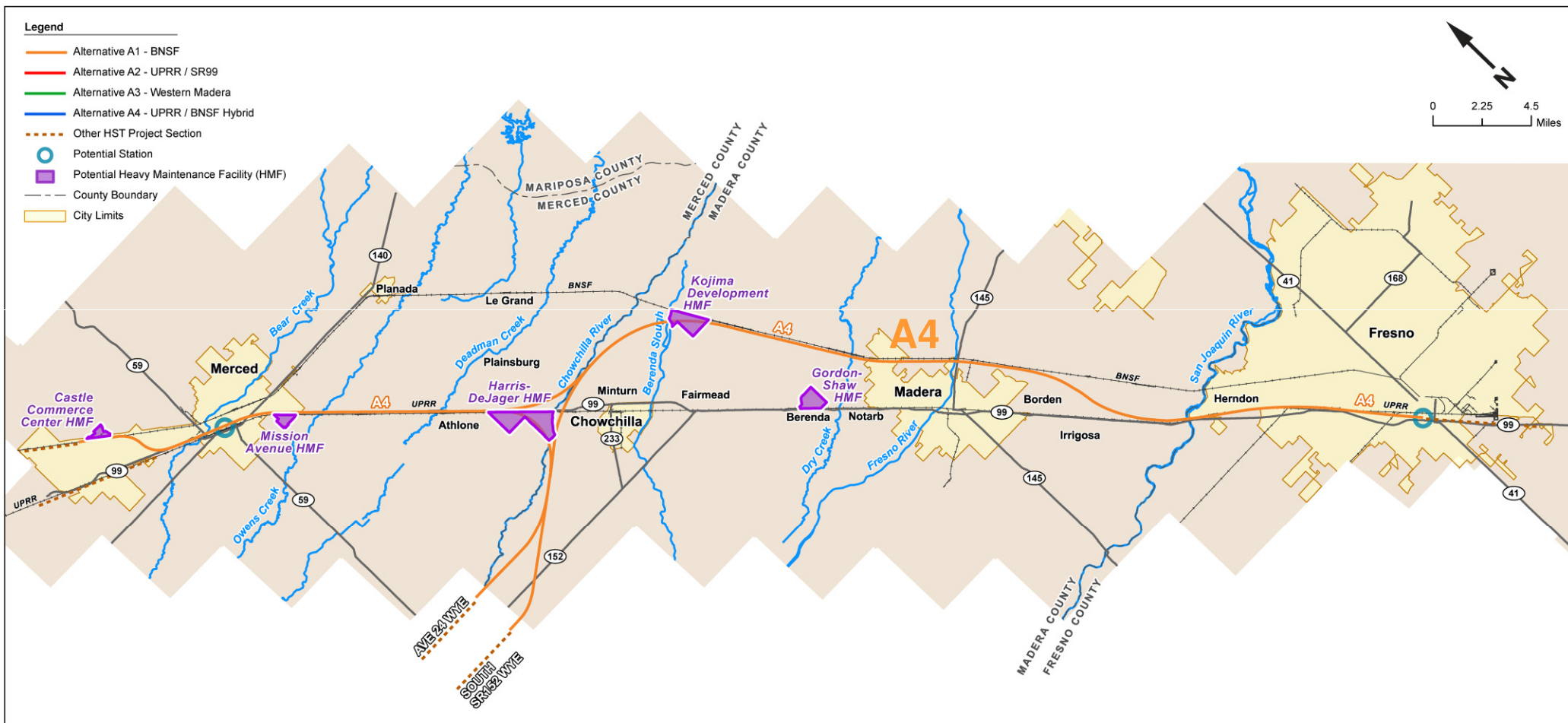


Alternative A3 – Western Madera



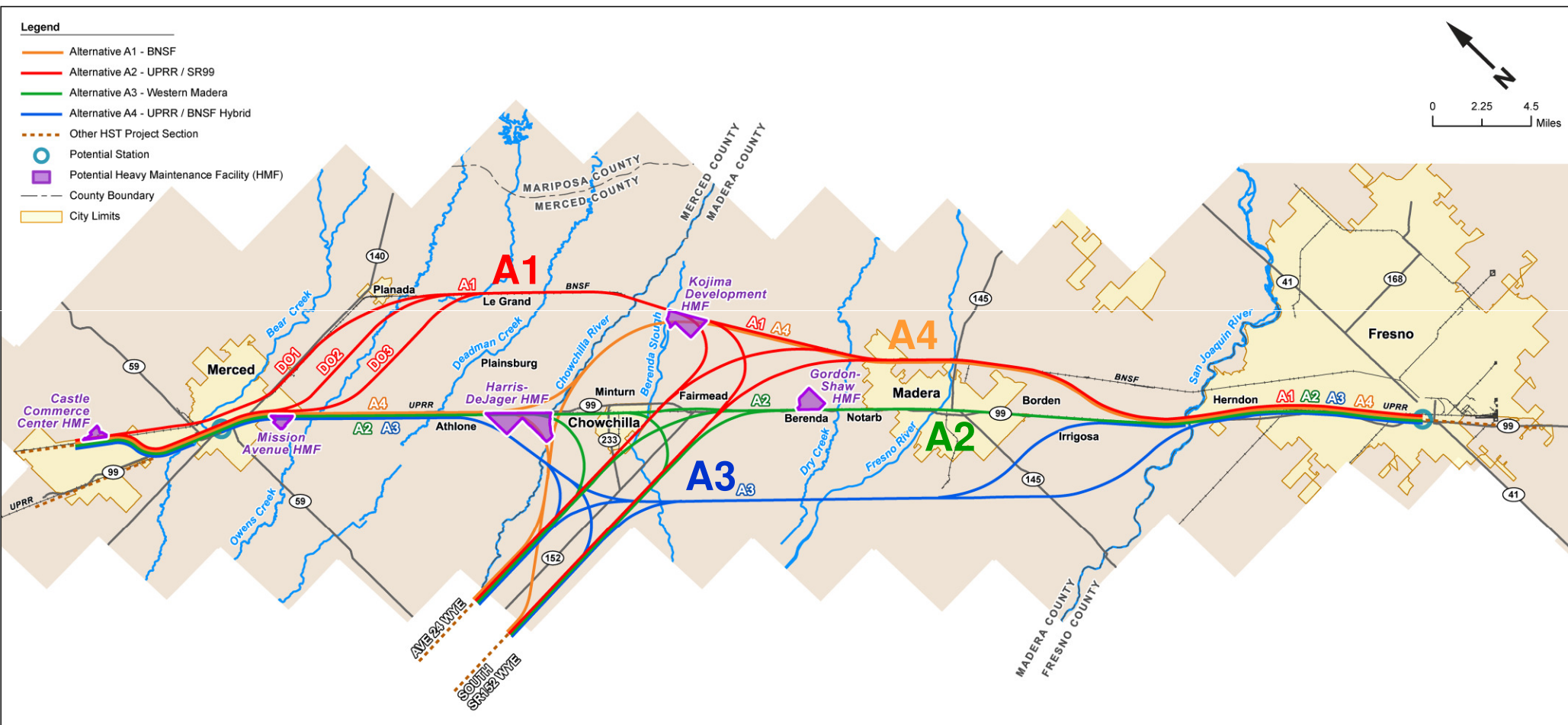


Alternative A4 – UPRR/SR99

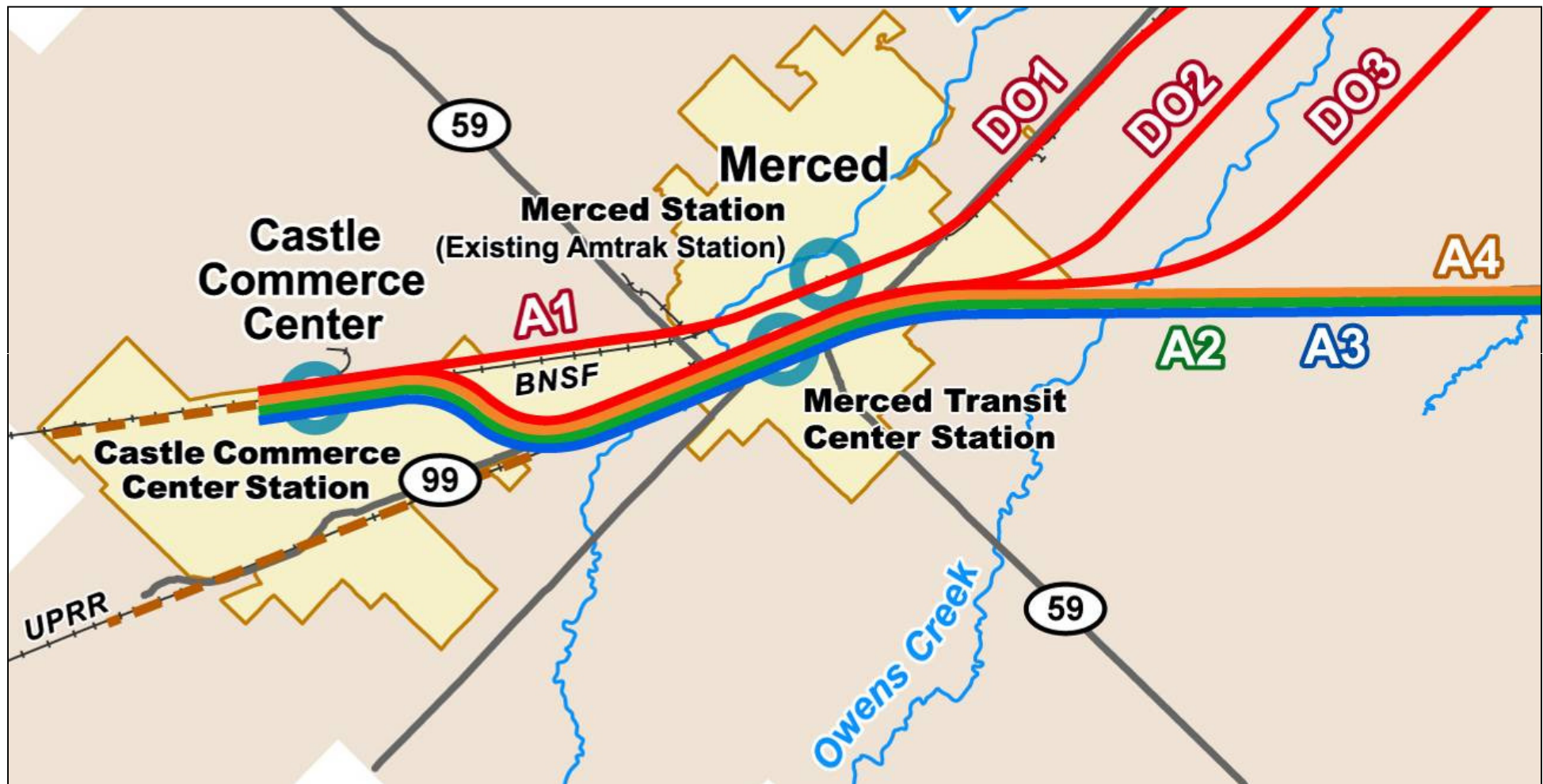




Range of Alternatives Considered



Merced Station Locations





Merced Station Selection

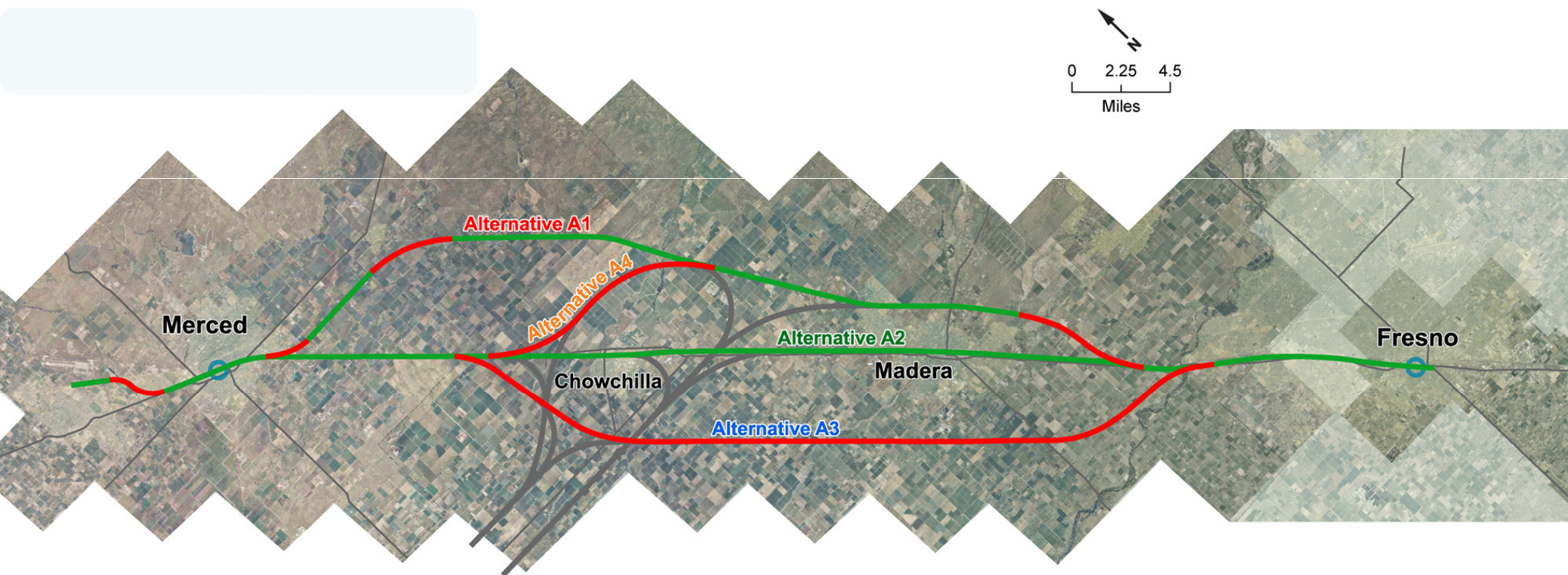
- ☒ Downtown Transit Center - connects with all alternatives
- ☐ Amtrak Station on BNSF - only connects with Alternative A1
- ☐ Castle Commerce Center - connects with all alternatives but outside of Merced Downtown





Adjacent to Existing Corridors

- Adjacent to Existing Corridor
- Not Adjacent to Existing Corridor





Alternative A1 - BNSF

- Statewide Program EIR/EIS 2005, Preferred Alternative
- BNSF MOU established
- Least constraints with UPRR
- Supported by Madera County and the Cities of Chowchilla and Madera





Alternative A2 – UPRR/SR99

- Bay Area Program EIR/EIS 2008, Preferred Alternative
- Possible challenges with UPRR
- Broad base of support





Alternative A3 – Western Madera

- “Green Field Alternative”
 - Bifurcates large number of small farms
 - Least adjacent to Existing transportation facilities
- Unwanted development patterns
- Strong opposition from region





Alternatives A4 – UPRR/BNSF Hybrid

- Longest travel time between SF and LA
- Less adjacent to existing transportation corridors
- Long portions of elevated profile
- Most river crossings (19)





Evaluation Results – Carry Forward

15

Alternative A2 - UP/SR99

- Competitive travel time
- Adjacent to UPRR
- Fewest resident/habitat impacts
- strong community/regulatory support

Alternative A1 – BNSF

- Meets travel time
- Potential for sharing BNSF ROW
- Fewest commercial impacts





Evaluation Results – Do Not Carry Forward



Alternative A3 - Western

- Green field alternative
- Not adjacent to existing transportation corridors
- Bifurcates large number of small farms
- Opposed by Merced, Madera County

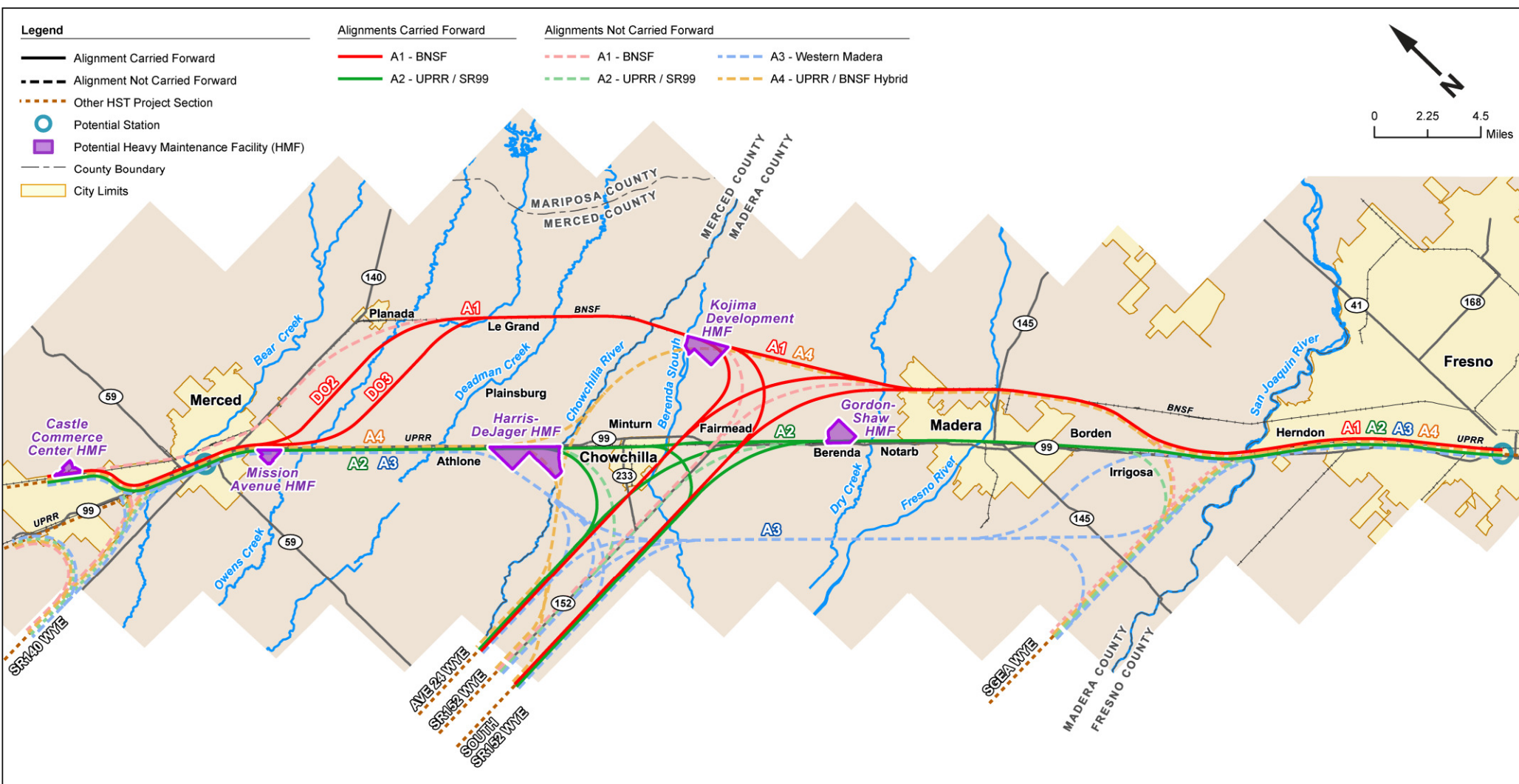


Alternative A4 – UP/BNSF Hybrid

- Slower travel time
- Less adjacent to existing transportation corridors
- Bifurcates small farms
- Residential and critical habitat impacts
- Low agency support



Alternatives A2 & A1 Advanced



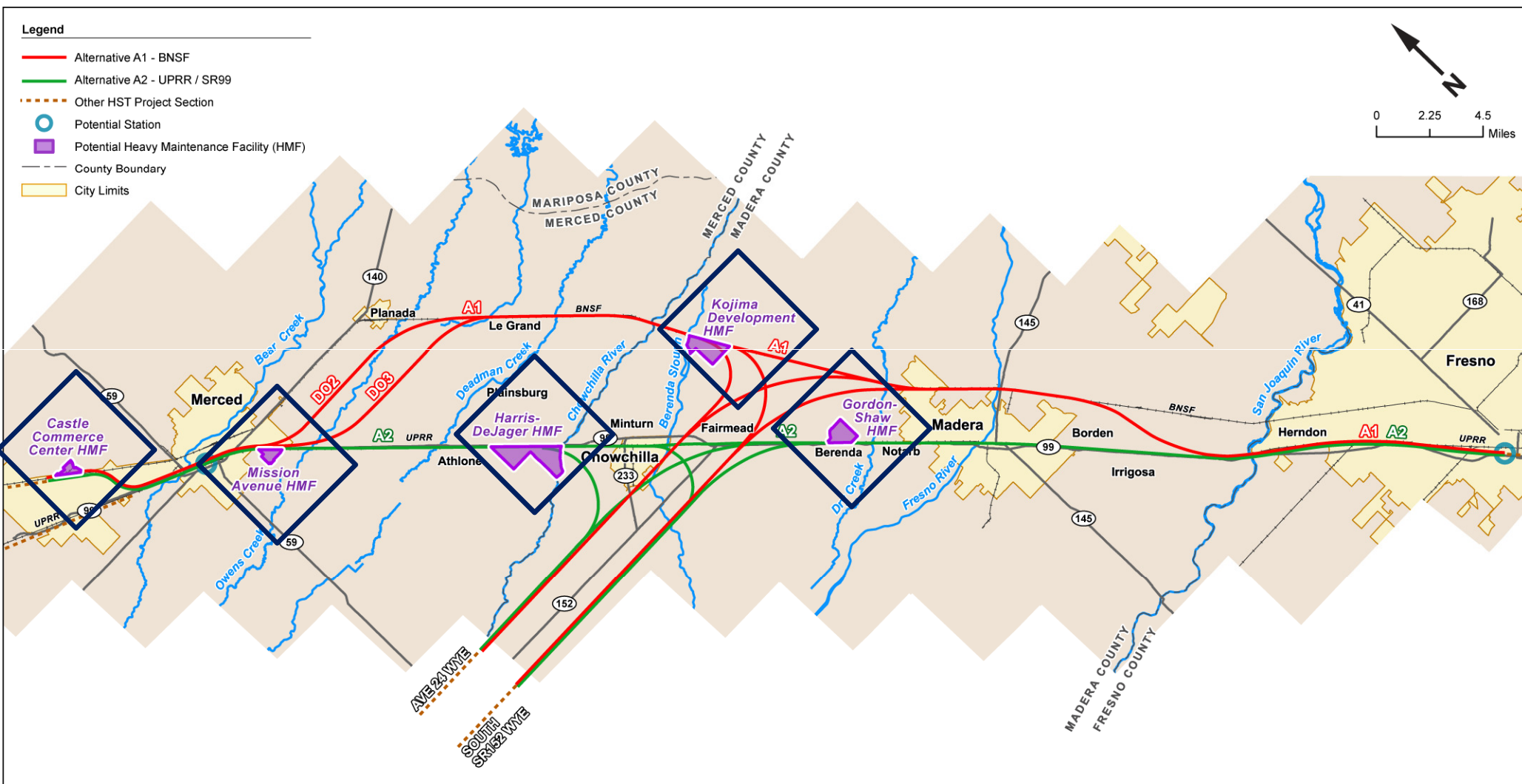


Next Steps for the AA Process

- Board Action to accept recommendations
- Meet with Tech Working Groups
- Meet with Members of the Public/Stakeholders
- Complete technical studies
- According to current schedule - circulate Draft EIR/EIS – December 2010



Merced to Fresno Heavy Maintenance Facilities Sites





Merced to Fresno HMF Sites

Site and Proposer	Location /Compatibility	Property Characteristics
Castle Commerce Center HMF Site, Merced HSR Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 164 acres• Compatible with A1-BNSF and A2-UPRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic incentives:• State Route access• Utilities readily available• Low environmental resources impact• Outside of floodplain
Merced Mission HMF Site, Merced HSR Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 222 acres• Southeast Merced• Compatible with A1-BNSF and A2-UPRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic incentives• State Route access• Utilities readily available• Potential environmental impacts• Within floodplain
Harris/ DeJager HMF Site, Chowchilla & property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 155 acres• North of Chowchilla.• Compatible with A2 -UPRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditionally offered at no cost to the Authority• Joint Powers Authority financing• State Route access• Possible Environmental impacts• Within floodplain
Kojima HMF Site, Chowchilla, Madera & property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 400 acres• Southeast of Chowchilla• Compatible with A1-BNSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditionally offered at no cost to the Authority & financing available• Possible Environmental impacts• Within floodplain
Gordon Shaw Property HMF Site, Madera County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 451 acres• South of Chowchilla.• Compatible with A2 - UPRR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint Powers Authority financing available• State Route access• Possible Environmental impacts• Partially in 100-year floodplain

